

Stronger Families = Stronger Tribes



JUNE 2003 VOLUME 2; ISSUE 1

SAVE THE DATE!

"Strengthening Tribal Families, Communities and Nations: Journeys to Success"

Marriott Renaissance Mayflower Hotel
July 16-18, 2003
National Tribal Child Welfare Conference
Washington, D.C.

Region VI HHS Tribal Consultation

July 16, 2003
Marriott Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Region VI ACF Tribal Roundtables August/September

Oklahoma & New Mexico
Dates & locations to be announced



The Tri-Regional Tribal Child Care Conference has been rescheduled for **August 20-22, 2003** to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding conference content or logistics, please contact Lisa Blackmon-Hansard @ (214)767-8129 or Patricia Strong @ CCB Conference Management Center @ (301) 315-2817.

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings!

In an effort to build stronger Tribal families, in the coming months we will reenergize our focus on the social and economic development of Native American families and communities. The Department of Health and Human Services is taking action to be the leader for good communication and better policies with respect to Native American issues. As a result, the Intradepartment Council on Native American Affairs Tribal Consultation Workgroup was developed to provide recommendations to the HHS Secretary's Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs in order to improve current policy. During the inaugural meeting in November 2002, Deputy Secretary Claude Allen stated, "the programs typically thought of as 'Indian programs' cannot and should not be expected to address them alone." He challenged the Workgroup to play a vital role and act as the venue to coordinate those efforts and to examine what we do and look for ways to expand our focus on Native American Programs. We would like to look for ways to assist Tribes in more fully accessing their programs. This may include specifically mentioning Tribes in grant announcements or looking for creative ways to increase their capacity to compete. Deputy Secretary Allen also addresses the need for better policies with respect to Native American issues and voiced both his and Secretary Thompson's commitment to making HHS a leader in this effort.

As we further our efforts toward meeting this challenge in Region VI, the Tri-Regional Tribal Child Care Conference will be held in August. This is part of the efforts of a working collaboration with the Kansas City and Denver Regional Office. Also this summer we anticipate the opportunity for exchanging ideas to improve and expand programs. Tribal Program Directors can augment and improve every aspect of their individual programs at the Fourth Annual Tribal Roundtables to be held in New Mexico and Oklahoma. I encourage them and you to take advantage of this exchange to custom design best practices for your programs.

As we continue to concentrate on ACF priorities, funding opportunities are expected to become more available. In our effort to build upon these priorities, I applaud your dedication and commitment as we make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve in Region VI.

Sincerely,

Leon R. McCowan
Regional Administrator



TRIBAL CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM INFORMATION

On June 3, 2003, the Program Instruction (ACYF-PI-CC-0303) containing application procedures for FY 2004 Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) monies and materials necessary to submit a new tribal plan preprint was sent to all Tribal Child Care grantees and Tribes expressing an interest in applying for CCDF funds.

The child count declaration required for FY 2004 CCDF funding and the CCDF plan preprint for the FY 2004-2005 biennium must be received by the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) no later than July 1, 2003.

Please be reminded that all Tribes receiving CCDF funds must first request and receive ACF approval through a separate application process before using CCDF funds for construction or major renovation. Program Instruction ACFY-PI-CC-01-01 (dated February 5, 2001), containing the application procedures, can be found on the Child Care Bureau's website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/current/pi0101/pi0101/htm>. Also, please be reminded of the upcoming deadlines related to the construction and renovation procedures.

If you plan to submit an application to use FY 2003 CCDF funds for construction or renovation, your ACF Regional Office must receive your construction/renovation application prior to July 1, 2003.

Tribal Lead Agencies with FY 2001 funds in a separate grant award for construction or renovation must liquidate these funds by September 30, 2003.

Please contact Lisa Blackmon-Hansard, Tribal Program Specialist or Ken Cook, Financial Specialist, for assistance regarding the Tribal Plan Preprint.



HHS DEPUTY SECRETARY TO VISIT TRIBES IN OKLAHOMA

HHS Deputy Secretary Claude Allen, Gina Tyner Dawson, Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, and Dr. Eric Broderick, along with other Secretarial staff will be making a visit during June to Tribes in Oklahoma. They will be accompanied by Region VI Regional Director Linda Penn and Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service staff. On-site visits to Tribal facilities at Cherokee Nation, Sac and Fox Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Tribe, Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation are planned.



There will also be a Tribal Leaders Roundtable hosted by the Oklahoma Area Indian Health Board and an Inter-Tribal Dinner. The Deputy Secretary is very interested in improving communication with Tribal Leaders and assuring HHS services to Tribal communities.

HHS & AD COUNCIL PROMOTING ADOPTION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The Administration of Children and Families (ACF), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services is partnering up with the Ad Council to develop an advertising campaign to promote adoption of children currently in the foster care system.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Ad Council to increase the number of children who are adopted," said Wade. F. Horn, Ph.D., assistant secretary for children and families. "We are looking forward to working together to produce a nationwide campaign that will captivate the public and help many waiting children to find permanent, safe, and loving families."

The campaign is aiming to increase awareness of the over 100,000 children in foster care who remain in the system year after year. Adults are often unaware that there is little or no cost to adopt children from the foster care system. They are also not aware that adoptive parents may receive support in the form of training, financial adoption subsidy assistance and Medicaid.

For more information please visit the site
www.adoptuskids.org.

Source: *HHS Press Release – April 1, 2003*

HHS REGIONAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION SESSION

The HHS Regional Tribal Consultation Session will be held at the Albuquerque Marriott Hotel on **July 16, 2003**. All Tribal Leaders in Region VI will be invited to attend this session, hosted by the HHS Regional Director, Linda Penn.

The consultation with Tribal Leaders is an effort to maintain the special government-to-government relationship, to assist the Tribes' understanding of the Department and to increase access to HHS programs. These sessions are in accordance with the Deputy Secretary's Tribal Communication and Coordination Project.

3RD ANNUAL TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Sponsored by
: The National Tribal Child Support
Association



Hosted by
The Puyallup Tribe of Nations

**July 20 - 24, 2003
Seattle, Washington**

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Sherri Heller
OCSE Commissioner

***Mediation
Confidentiality/Ethics
Judges Training
Mock Tribal Court
Training for Court Staff
Best Practices
Case Management Training
Computer Systems
Training for non-Tribal Staff***

For more information contact

**Puyallup Tribe of Nations
2002 E 28th St
Tacoma, WA 98404
253-573-7808**

Source: www.supporttribalchildren.org

HHS SECRETARY & ATTORNEY GENERAL ADDRESS NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women (NACVAW) will meet today and tomorrow to discuss efforts aimed at preventing and addressing all forms of family violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Violence against women is a silent epidemic -- one which too many are hesitant to discuss," Secretary Thompson said. "Through the committee, our partnership with the Justice Department, and HHS programs, we're making sure that victims of violence against women can find the support and healing they need to rebuild their lives. Together, we can all make a profound difference in the lives of women and families who would otherwise suffer in silence -- unheard, unprotected and without hope. Violence against women is a social ill we can -- and must -- stop."

Attorney General Ashcroft added: "The Justice Department and our partners at the Department of Health and Human Services have made it possible for tens of thousands of women to renew their hope, reclaim their dignity, and change their lives. Cities across the nation have used over a billion dollars in funding to strengthen their abilities to respond to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking."

The committee's members were appointed in October 2002 by Secretary Thompson and Attorney General Ashcroft and have been charged with identifying strategies to prevent and address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Over the course of the two-day meeting, the committee will discuss their progress on this directive. The committee will also discuss the role of clergy, how men can help end domestic violence and promising approaches to improve services.

Secretary Thompson will discuss HHS initiatives to combat different types of violence against women. The efforts include The National Sexual Violence Resource Center, which provides comprehensive information on sexual violence, policy and technical assistance. In addition, the Secretary will cite HHS' recent satellite broadcast, "Sexual Violence and Prevention: Building Leadership and Commitment to Underserved Communities," which was downloaded at 140 sites and has helped expand the dialogue in communities nationwide.

Additional information about the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/nac/naccharge7.htm>

Source: HHS Press Release - April 1, 2003



**Oklahoma Native
American Domestic
Violence Coalition**

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HHS TO AWARD \$13 MILLION TO STATES TO IMPROVE THE VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced the availability of \$13 million in grants for states and territories to establish, expand and improve access to voting areas and increase voter participation by individuals with disabilities.

The grants will be used by states in collaboration with local governments to enhance accessibility to polling places for individuals with disabilities; provide outreach to the disability community about polling accessibility; and to train poll workers, elections officials and volunteers on methods to promote access and increase voter participation for individuals with disabilities.

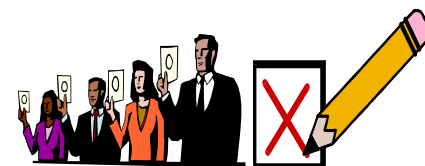
All states, the District of Columbia and the territories may apply for the funding, fiscal year 2003 by HHS' Developmental Disabilities, for Children and Families authorized by the Help America Vote Act, which President Bush signed into law on October 29, 2002.

"The cornerstone of the United States is its reliance on a free, democratic society," Secretary Thompson said. "Ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the same access to voting services that other Americans experience is an essential right and works to make our nation stronger."

Columbia and the territories may apply for the funding, fiscal year 2003 by HHS' Developmental Disabilities, for Children and Families authorized by the Help America Vote Act, which President Bush signed into law on October 29, 2002.

The new program builds on efforts already in place to strengthen President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, which seeks to provide resources for individuals with disabilities so they can live more independently, work and participate fully in community life. In fiscal year 2004, the President's budget request includes \$11 million to promote home and community-based care alternatives for persons with disabilities.

Information about the new program and how states may apply is included in the Federal Register. More information about the President's New Freedom Initiative and HHS disability efforts can be found at <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov> and <http://www.hhs.gov/newfreedom>.



Source: HHS Press Release - May 21, 2003

JOINT ADMINISTRATION ON AGING AND CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES PROJECT

On May 29, 2003, HHS Secretary announced a new grant program to help states develop one-stop shopping centers for seniors and people with disabilities who need long-term care information.

Under the new grant program, HHS will support state efforts to develop Aging and Disability Resource Centers to provide long-term care information to consumers. HHS is soliciting proposals from states to create such resource centers and will support as many as 16 such projects with grants of up to \$800,000 for three years.

Any State may apply for a resource center grant. Applications must have the support and active involvement of the State Agency on Aging and the State Medicaid agency. The deadline for applications in **July 28, 2003**. A notice soliciting proposals for new programs was published in May 29, 2003 Federal Register. More information about the program is available at <http://www.aoa.gov> or www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom.

HHS AWARDS \$13.8 MILLION TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AMERICA

"These grants foster partnerships and creative strategies to help bring health care to rural Americans who might not receive it otherwise," Secretary Thompson said. "They enable health care and social service providers, health centers, hospitals and universities to pool resources and efforts to provide more and better services."

The 53 Outreach grants, totaling more than \$9.8 million, fund coalitions of at least three health-related organizations to stimulate innovation in health care delivery in rural areas. This year, for example, Outreach grantees will:

- help isolated rural residents, including those in Native American communities, gain access to specialty services through a telehealth distance-learning network



The 20 Rural Health Network Development grants, totaling more than \$3.9 million, provide support to rural-based health care organizations to work collaboratively to integrate administrative, clinical, financial or technology-related activities. Some of this year's Network grants will:

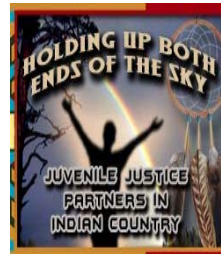
- connect rural consumers to online health information;
- increase access to pharmacy services through remote dispensing technology, referrals to pharmaceutical manufacturers' discount programs, and covering costs of interim medications; and
- permit federally designated Critical Access Hospitals to contract jointly for specialty medical and business consulting services.

"These Outreach and Network grants effectively improve rural residents' access to quality health care," added Elizabeth M. Duke, administrator of the HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA's Office of Rural Health Policy administers the grant programs.

Source: HHS Press Release - May 1, 2003

JUVENILE JUSTICE IN INDIAN COUNTRY VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the satellite videoconference **"Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky: Juvenile Justice Partners in Indian Country."** The broadcast will air July 1, 2003, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT.



The videoconference will provide an overview of the purpose, authority, background, and funding for OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program, which supports tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve their juvenile justice systems. The program also provides mental health and substance abuse services to American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

The broadcast is designed for tribal, federal, and state policymakers; state juvenile justice directors; judges; community leaders; juvenile justice researchers; law enforcement; school administrators and educators; probation personnel; and social service and child welfare officials; among others.

For further information about this videoconference, visit <http://www.trc.eku.edu/jj> where you may register online to facilitate a downlink site or to view the videoconference online. Registration is free. You may also contact **Jenny McWilliams @ 859-622-6671** or ekujjtap@aol.com.

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), Albuquerque, will host a downlink of this video-conference in the Student Services Center, especially for Tribes and Pueblos in NM. Lunch will be provided for those attending. Please register when you receive the notice from **Joan Goodman, Family Extension Education Project Coordinator, (505) 346-7709**.

We are attempting to arrange for a similar downlink at locations in Oklahoma. You will receive a faxed notice from the Regional Office if this becomes possible.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

The Department of Health and Human Services today announced that \$10 million will be made available to qualified organizations to train adult volunteers as mentors to children whose parents are incarcerated. These grants are part of President Bush's initiative to provide mentors for disadvantaged youth who are making the critical transition from childhood to adolescence.

"To develop into healthy, productive adults, children need the influence of strong adult role models, but children with incarcerated parents often lack such role models, at least temporarily," said Tommy G. Thompson, secretary of Health and Human Services. "This new program will create many new opportunities to match children with loving, encouraging mentors who will help them through a difficult time in their lives."

"This initiative targets one of the most underserved and most disadvantaged groups among us," said Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., assistant secretary for children and families. "As a society we now have a real opportunity to intervene with children who face great risks and make a lasting difference in their lives."

Between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with a parent in a federal or state correctional facility increased by more than 100 percent, from about 900,000 to about 2,000,000. Further, fewer than 50 percent of prisoners receive regular visits from their children, either because the caregiver chooses not to visit or lacks the resources to make the sometimes-long trip. In addition, the consequences for children whose parents are imprisoned can be devastating: studies show that they have seven times the chance of becoming incarcerated as the general population.

Community and faith-based organizations, prison systems, and tribal, state and local governments are eligible to apply for the grants. Grantees will respond to referrals from a variety of sources--parents, caretakers, schools, courts, social service agencies or religious congregations. The mentoring organization will set up and monitor the matches between mentors and children. These mentors must have received training and will be overseen and supported by the organization as challenges arise. The mentoring organization must make sure that all potential mentors have been screened for child and domestic abuse and other criminal history. Each mentor will be required to make at least a one-year commitment with, at a minimum, once weekly contact with the child with whom he or she is matched.

The deadline for application is **July 15, 2003**. Information on how to apply for a grant and whom to contact for more information can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb>.

Source: HHS Press Release - May 19, 2003



ACF TRIBAL ROUNDTABLES

The Fourth Annual Tribal Roundtables for ACF Grantees will be held in August and September in Oklahoma and New Mexico. Ideas for presenters and workshop topics are welcome. More information will follow. Contact Judy Baggett, (214) 767-8078.

HHS, ADA HOLD NATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING TO FOCUS ON DIABETES AND WOMEN

In response to the growing diabetes epidemic in women, the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Coordinating Committee on Women's Health and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) today is hosting the first Women & Diabetes National Town Hall Meeting.

"The American Diabetes Association is honored to co-host this important meeting bringing together the public and private sector to share successes and ideas for how to reach out to women to keep them healthy throughout their lifetime," said American Diabetes Association President Fran Kaufman, M.D., a pediatric endocrinologist. "Type 2 diabetes can often be prevented or delayed with moderate lifestyle changes in meal planning and physical activity, and we know women are often responsible

More than 9 million American women have diabetes yet many are unaware they have the disease. Among American adults, diabetes diagnoses have increased 61 percent between 1990 and 2001.

"Women are especially hard hit by this disease and its complications. That's why this town hall is of such critical importance," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "The incidence of diabetes is growing in America, and we have to work together to stem the tide of this chronic disease which robs people of their quality of life. We must make sure women have the information they need to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families."

Seventeen million Americans have diabetes. Of these, an estimated 5.9 million Americans are unaware that they have the disease, according to HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An additional 16 million are estimated to have "pre-diabetes," a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. If pre-diabetes remains undiagnosed and untreated, it often will develop into type 2 diabetes. Lifestyle modifications such as weight loss and physical activity can significantly prevent or delay onset of type 2 diabetes. In addition, diabetes and its complications cost the United States about \$132 billion each year, including both direct medical costs and lost productivity.

More information on diabetes can be found on the HHS Web site (www.hhs.gov) or through ADA toll-free at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or www.diabetes.org.

Source: HHS Press Release - April 1, 2003

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Program Announcement # ACYF/CB-2003-01 was issued by the Children's Bureau to solicit grant applications for Discretionary Grants for these priority areas. 2003A Adoption Opportunities Activities include 2003A.1 Adoptive Placements for Children in Foster Care and 2003A.2 Projects to Improve Recruitment of Adoptive Parents in Rural Areas. 2003B Child Abuse and Neglect Discretionary Activities includes 2003B.2 Improving Child Welfare Outcomes Through Systems of Care. 2003D Promoting Safe and Stable Families Activities includes 2003D.1 Replication of Demonstrated Effective Programs in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Copies of the announcement are available from the Children's Bureau Clearinghouse at 1-800-394-3366. The closing date for submission of applications is **July 25, 2003**. Contact in the Children's Bureau is Patricia Campiglia, (202) 205-8060.

HHS RELEASES 2001 NATIONAL STATISTICS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

A nation as compassionate as ours should ensure that no child is a victim of abuse or neglect. The number of children that are being abused and neglected this country is an unacceptable daily tragedy," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We must do more to protect our most vulnerable children. That's why President Bush has proposed an important new approach to give states the tools and resources they need to prevent abuse and care for these young victims."

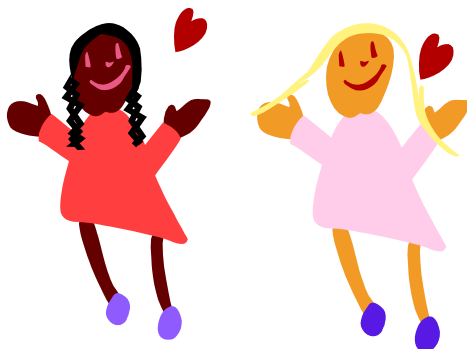
An estimated 903,000 children across the country were victims of abuse or neglect in 2001, according to national data released today by the Department of Health and Human Services. The statistics indicate that about 12.4 out of every 1,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, a rate comparable to the previous year's victimization rate of 12.2 out of 1,000 children.

"As part of HHS' fiscal year 2004 budget request, the Bush Administration is proposing a new approach to protecting children in the child welfare system. Under the plan, states and tribes would have the option of using some money now designated solely for foster care to support a range of abuse-preventive services and programs. The proposal provides the flexibility and sustained financial support necessary to build innovative programs for children and families aimed at preventing maltreatment and removal from home.

"Every time a child is abused or neglected, the whole human race suffers," said Wade F. Horn, Ph. D., assistant secretary for children and families. "President Bush's plan to prevent this terrible problem will point the way to happier lives for many children."

The data released today are based on information collected through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The data show that child protective service agencies received about 2,672,000 reports of possible maltreatment in 2001. There were 903,000 substantiated cases of maltreatment of children - the majority of which involved cases of neglect. About 1,300 children died of abuse or neglect, a rate of 1.81 children per 100,000 children in the population.

The rate of child neglect and abuse in 2001 was about 19 percent less than the rate in 1993, when maltreatment peaked at an estimated 15.3 out of every 1,000 children. As recently as 1998, the rate was 12.9 per 1,000 children. The rate dropped to 11.8 per 1,000 children in 1999 - considered a statistical "outlier" that was unduly influenced by census population estimates - and then returned to 12.2 per 1,000 children in 2000.



The full report, "Child Maltreatment 2001," is available at <http://www.calib.com/nccanch/statutes/>. A table of state and national child abuse and neglect victimization rates for 2000 and 2001 is available from the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect at (800) 394-3366 or by e-mail at nccanch@calib.com.

Source: HHS Press Release - April 1, 2003

**The Region VI "Stronger Families = Stronger Tribes" Newsletter is issued by
the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.
Look for the next Newsletter in September 2003**

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Regional Administrator

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Regional Office VI Who We Are

Service Area

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma,
and Texas.

Up-to-date information about Region VI states
can be found at <http://www.stateline.org/>

Profile

5 States
68 Federally Recognized Tribes
176 Head Start Grantees serving 114,647
children
67 Early Head Start Grantees serving 6,033
pregnant women, infants and toddlers
30 Runaway and Homeless Grants

Mission

Region VI will fulfill ACF's mission of meeting
the needs of children and families in a positive
and productive environment, through visionary
leadership, effective program integration, and
responsible staffing.

